

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2002

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL news invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to sarlnews@hotmail.com not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both English and Afrikaans.

In the news today:

NOMINATIONS FOR SARL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MOTIONS FOR THE AGM

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE ON 10 NOVEMBER

ARRL RESURRECTS FREQUENCY MEASURING TEST

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from nine to thirteen hours (09:00 to 13:00) at 0(zero)11 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The news follows in detail:

NOMINATIONS FOR SARL COUNCIL MEMBERS

All present members of the SARL Council retire at its next AGM which will take place on 29 March 2003 in Bloemfontein and in preparation for the event, nominations for councillors are invited in terms of Rule 16.2 from members of the SARL to fill these vacancies. Should more than 15 nominations be received a ballot will be held.

Each nomination must contain the following:

1. Full names, callsign and address of nominee;
2. An amateur radio related CV of not more than 200 words;
3. A signed declaration by the nominee that s/he accepts nomination and will serve on the Council of the SARL if elected;
4. Each nomination must be signed by a proposer and seconder;
5. Only fully paid-up members (Rule 16.3) of the SARL may be nominated, propose and second a nomination.

MOTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Motions for submission and consideration at the Annual General Meeting of the SARL on 29 March 2003 in Bloemfontein are invited from members.

Each motion must contain the following:

1. A concise description of the motion;
2. A motivation in support of the motion;
3. A proposer and a seconder must sign each motion.

Nominations and motions must reach the Secretary by no later than 30 November 2002. They must be addressed to The Secretary, SARL and mailed to P O Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735 or faxed to 011 675 2793. Other contact details are Tel 011 675 2393 and E-Mail: admin@sarl.org.za.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE ON 10 NOVEMBER

The annual remembrance service for radio amateurs who offered their lives on duty for South Africa will be broadcast on Sunday 10 November at 10:45 over all the transmitters of Radio-Sonder-Grense. The service will be conducted by Rev. Lendus de Villiers, ZS6LLV, minister of the DRC congregation Rietfontein-North in Pretoria. We request that amateurs maintain radio silence during the transmission and where possible relay the service over repeaters.

INCORRECT INVOICES TO CANDIDATES FOR THE MAY 2002 RAE

It has come to the notice of the SARL that ICASA sent invoices to all candidates who passed the May 2002 RAE for the cost of their certificates and part of their licence fees for 2002.

These costs were however included in the registration fee for the RAE which was paid over to ICASA by the SARL. The SARL is at present in communication with ICASA in an endeavour to solve this problem.

If any of you have already paid this account, your account for next year will be credited with the amount paid.

NARC EMAIL MODEM OUT OF ACTION

Please take note that there will be some delays with e-mail sent to the SARL office at the NARC. The computer modem has been damaged and no e-mail could be downloaded from Wednesday onward. The modem will be replaced or repaired during the week. The telephones and fax machine are still in good working order.

SARL WEBSITE STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER

Here follows the SARL website statistics as at the end of October 2002.

Visitors: Total to date 13 430; Average per Day 69; Average Visit Length: 3m 41s. The majority of our visitors are still coming from South Africa and Europe

but we do get visitors coming from all parts of the globe. (There were very high spikes in the visitor stats around the release of the RAE results).

Members only: Since the starting of tracking members only visitors late in April, we've had 470 members using the members only login. This means that the website services about 40% of members and indirectly supports about twice this amount.

Another interesting fact: Members that used the website also renewed their membership. Very few of these people did not renew.

Most Popular pages: No. 10 Radio Amateurs Exam page; No. 9 The Electronic Callbook update file; No. 8 Members Home page; No. 7 The Search page; No. 6 The news landing; No. 5 Items of interest page; No. 4 The SARL News in English; No. 3 The Site map; No. 2 The SARL online callbook; No. 1 The Short message forum and Swop Shop;

Observation: The Afrikaans news has dropped in popularity and is now only number 13 on the list.

Call Book usage: Since we've been tracking callsigns looked up on the call book, we've had a total of 1292 callsigns looked up and a total of 2800 lookups.

Interaction with members: During the month of October we processed 38 updates to members' details and reminded member of their passwords 58 times. We also processed 2 updates to club records. The NEW Online membership application form processed 12 new members during September.

Bulletin Mailing List: The automatic mailing list sends 310 copies of the Sunday bulletin to 276 people directly from the website. (70% English, 30% Afrikaans). Note: Some get both English and Afrikaans bulletins.

Special thanks to all the contributors of information and updates to information and records on the SARL web from Richard, ZS2CLI and a special thanks.to Richard for all his time and effort in doing a fine job, we all appreciate it.

ARRL RESURRECTS FREQUENCY MEASURING TEST

Here follows an abridged extract from this weekend's news bulletin of the ARRL which is perhaps worthy to note and the subject should perhaps here also be attended to.

The Frequency Measuring Test (FMT)—an ARRL staple for nearly 50 years—will return in early November. A FMT transmission will replace the W1AW SSB bulletin on November 7, 02:45 UTC (Wednesday, November 6, in US time zones).

“These tests will exercise the capabilities of hams to measure important operating parameters, improve their understanding of complex radios and give them a better mental picture of their transmitted signals,” Contributing Editor Ward

Silver, N0AX, said in an October 2002 QST article describing the art and science of frequency measurement. “The goal is a more technically aware amateur confident of compliance with FCC regulations.”

Today’s amateurs tend to take for granted the accuracy of their transceiver’s frequency readout. But, as Silver notes in his article, relying simply on a transceiver’s digital readouts could mean part of your signal is outside the band edge—in violation of FCC Part 97 rules. Transceiver or receiver readout accuracy “depends entirely on the quality of the receiver’s master oscillator,” he points out in QST.

Increasing technical quality of amateur gear was one of the primary reasons for the decline and fall of FMTs in 1980. In prior decades, however, thousands of amateurs took part in the FMTs, the first of which was held in October 1931.

The 2002 FMT will begin at the appointed time—02:45 UTC November 7 (21:45 EST November 6)—with a general Morse code “QST” from W1AW on four amateur frequencies. The test itself will consist of 20 seconds of carrier followed by a series of CW dits followed by a station ID. The test will last about five minutes and will conclude with a series of Vs and another station ID. The approximate frequencies are 3 580, 7 047, 14 048 and 21 068 kHz.

Participation to this test may be illuminating if of the signals are readable here, perhaps the 14 and 21 MHz signals; the nightwolves may well give it a try.

This brings us to the end of today’s news bulletin.

This bulletin was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by.....fromas a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750, and 7082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

Also join the SARL President’s net, which is on the air at noon on Sundays on 7082 kHz.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also a big word of thanks to those persons supplying news for these bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX